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Press release: The Tariff Decision

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

THE TARIFF DECISION.

19/7/73

The Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said today he was satisfied that the Commonwealth Government's tariff initiative could have far reaching effects on restructuring the Australian industry.

But he noted that South Australia, because of the importance of motor vehicle and consumer goods manufacture to its economy, could be more adversely affected than other States.

For this reason, the State Government would help firms making representations to the Federal Tribunal in preparing their case for assistance.

This would be done through the Industrial Development Division of the Premier's Department.

Mr. Dunstan was commenting on the Federal Government's tariff decision after discussions with State Cabinet and senior advisers.

The announcement by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Overseas Trade was an important policy decision, the effects of which could be far reaching.

There were bound to be some temporary adverse effects on employment in some industries where imports became cheaper and were substituted for local products.

"The emphasis placed by the Federal Government on speedy adjustment assistance to people and firms affected is an essential element in the overall scheme." Mr. Dunstan said.

The South Australian Government believed it was essential that the Federal Government recognized the importance of factories in decentralised locations when it considered the implications of its policy decision.

The timing of the new measures was appropriate, the Premier said.

The strength of Australia's international reserves and buoyant exports allowed an increase in imports.

Consumers and primary producers should benefit and the Federal Government's action would also help Australia's bargaining position in future international trade negotiations.

"Provided there is proper follow-through with assistance to affected firms and their employees, I believe the Federal Government's action will be a major strategic move to greater efficiency of industry and control of rising prices." Mr. Dunstan said.